

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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Meeting Summary

May 20, 2011

Members Present – Cynthia Andrews, Kameka Brown (Appointment Pending), Gwendolyn Coates, Chair, Carolyn Johnson Davis (Appointment Pending), Rose Floyd, Rowena Rye, Jeannine Skinner

Members Excused: Karen Kent, Marti Lindeman, Michael Lusk, Anthony Shoecraft, Helen Sikov

Staff – Rosemary Cunningham, Karen Winston

I. Approval of April Meeting Summary

There was no quorum so the April meeting summary was tabled.

II. Introduction of New MCAAE Members (Appointments Pending)

Members welcomed Kameka Brown and Carolyn Johnson Davis to the MCAAE.

Kameka Brown is originally from Chicago and has been living in Seattle for seven months. She currently works as a Clinical Program Consultant, with Premera. Kameka's main interests are clinical nursing, research and business. She was also a Nursing Professor at De Paul University and, as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), she supervised a team of 150 RNs. As an ARNP she has been personally committed to older African Americans and addressing health disparities. She has a wealth of volunteer experience which includes the [Albert Schweitzer Fellows](#), AmeriCorps, the Peer Mentor Program, and various nursing organization boards. As a MCAAE member Kameka would like to help elders better understand changes in the healthcare system, and would also like to address health disparities.

Carolyn Johnson Davis is a native of Seattle who has devoted over 20 years to health and human services including early childhood development, education and community development. She has worked in administration, education and direct services for adults, seniors, children, youth, and families in both private and public sectors. Carolyn obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Development, Public Administration from Central Michigan University in 2002. Her professional career has included work as an educator, manager, facilitator, case manager, and as a community advocate. She believes community collaboration broadens mutually shared benefits and is best accomplished through networking and relationship building.

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III. Interim ADS Director's Report

Rosemary Cunningham announced she is filling in as Interim Director while Pam Piering is on administrative leave for 4-6 weeks. She also summarized the following new projects ADS staff are working on.

1. ADS is partnering with the UW on a research grant from the National Institutes on Health to **"Reduce Disabilities in Alzheimer's Disease"** (RDAD). The goal is to evaluate interventions in a community-based setting to improve physical, functional and quality of life for individuals with Alzheimer's and their family caregivers. A coach will deliver specific protocols to family caregivers and care-recipients over a 12 week period. Each session will include physical activity, caregiver education and problem solving techniques. The research is promising and this grant will provide an opportunity to put the research into practice.
2. ADS is applying for a King County **Elder Abuse Grant**. The successful applicant will receive a one year \$100,000 grant to hire an elder abuse advocate to coordinate services and provide support for victims of elder abuse.
3. ADS King County Care Partners (KCCP) is exploring partnerships with hospitals to reduce high readmission rates for Medicare beneficiaries. The **Care Transitions** initiative is part of the Affordable Care Act.
4. Family Caregiver Program – Nursing Home Diversion:

IV. 2011 Legislative Forum

Gwendolyn began by polling members about a possible date for the 2011 Legislative Forum. Karen W. suggested that members reconsider having a forum in 2011. If the purpose of the forum is to influence legislators about the needs of older African Americans prior to their biennial budget session, then that was already accomplished during the 2010 forum. She suggested planning the legislative forum every other year and, in the interim year, members could conduct smaller legislative group visits to key elected officials regarding issues, advocacy and building relationship stronger relationships with legislators.

Gwendolyn indicated she would still like to plan a community breakfast forum to honor champion community advocates of African American elders. She deferred further discussion to the Legislative Advocacy Committee. A report will be made at the June meeting.

V. Committee Reports

Education Committee (Michael, Chair, Jeannine, Helen, Rose)

Michael joined this part of the meeting by phone. His report included an opportunity for the MCAAE to partner with the Early Learning and Education Programs. He spoke with Sandra Woods-Pollard, Manager, about possible ways to collaborate. Following are the ideas they discussed:

Early Learning & Education Past Partnership: The Early Learning and Education Programs partnered with a Somali group-- they held an event where individuals in the Somali community portrayed their stories (I do not recall the topic but it was related to learning and education) to music.

How Can We Collaborate: We could hold an event similar to one mentioned above or we could select a hot topic (i.e. How to prepare for the first day of school) and provide a forum/venue to educate the community/ target group about the topic.

Collaboration Responsibilities for the Early Learning and Education Programs:

Facilitate the event

Provide literature and resources for this event.

Assist the Outreach & Education Committee with marketing

Collaboration Responsibilities for the Outreach & Education Committee

Select a date (no dates in the summer months Jun, Jul, and early Aug)

Find and secure a space

Market the event

Recruit participants (15- 40) for the event

This potential collaboration sounds like a great opportunity to provide additional resources to kinship grandparents; however, there seems to be a lot of work on our end.

Ms. Woods-Pollard needs a response if we intend to move forward with a partnership with The Early Learning and Education Programs. She wants to report our decision in her next team meeting, which occurs in mid June.

VI. Old Business

Gwendolyn reported that there is currently \$185.00 in the checking account and \$25.13 in the saving account. The account is losing money due to \$11.00 monthly service charge. Gwendolyn recommended closing the account and transferring the funds to Key Bank. Members concurred. She and Karen W will coordinate the transfer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2011, in the SMT 60th Floor, Room 6030.